

List of databases of on-going research (stroke-specific registries and general registries)

ESO Trials Network Committee

1 Introduction

Investigators need access to information about trials that are on-going and trials that are being planned. There are several registries of on-going research. We have divided them into of i) stroke-specific registries and ii) general registries.

2 Stroke-specific registries

2.1 The Internet Stroke Center (www.strokecenter.org)

The Stroke Trials Directory is a collaborative project between Washington University School of Medicine, UT Southwestern Medical Center, and the National Institute of Neurologic Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). The database can be searched for:

- trials (using keywords, interventions, and study design parameters)
- interventions
- conditions
- sponsors

One can also search for clinical trials near one's own location.

2.2 Database of Research in Stroke (DORIS) (www.askdoris.org)

DORIS is developed and updated by the Cochrane Stroke Group (<http://stroke.cochrane.org>) and currently includes 20125 references to 8267 trials and 1065 systematic reviews (September 2013). It provides easy access to:

- Current best evidence, including guidelines, systematic reviews and RCTs
- On-going research
- Priorities for future research. The identification of priority areas for future stroke research is done in collaboration with The James Lind Alliance (<http://www.lindalliance.org/>).

ESO has decided to use the GRADE system for future ESO guidelines, which uses the PICO format to identify recommendations. We have therefore contacted DORIS to ask if they would consider using the PICO format for identifying studies (which would mean that "Select topic" is changed to "Select outcome"). A simple registration is required before you can start using the database.

3 General registries

3.1 ClinicalTrials.gov (www.clinicaltrials.gov)

ClinicalTrials.gov is a registry and results database of publicly and privately supported clinical studies of human participants conducted around the world. The Web site is maintained by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). Information on ClinicalTrials.gov is provided and updated by the sponsor or principal investigator of the clinical study.

The records include information about the following:

- The disease or condition
- The Intervention (for example, the medical product, behavior, or procedure being studied)
- The title, description, and design of the study. On-going studies can be identified by selecting "open" studies (not "closed" studies)
- The requirements for participation (eligibility criteria)

- The locations where the study is being conducted
- The contact information for the study locations
- Links to relevant information on other health Web sites, such as NLM's MedlinePlus® for patient health information and PubMed® for citations and abstracts for scholarly articles in the field of medicine.

3.2 EU Clinical Trials Register (www.clinicaltrialsregister.eu)

The EU Clinical Trials Register website is hosted by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and contains information on phase II-IV clinical trials on medicines. The information dates from 2004 and is collected and entered into the EudraCT database by the national competent authorities. The EU Clinical Trials Register is also available on the WHO ICTRP website (see below).

Users can download up to 20 results (per request) in a text file, and find information on:

- The design of the trial
- The sponsor
- The investigational medicine (trade name or active substance identification)
- The therapeutic areas
- The status (authorised, ongoing, complete)

3.3 WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) (<http://www.who.int/ictrp>)

The search portal provides access to a central database containing the trial registration data sets provided by a number of other registries. It also provides links to the full original records. The search portal can also be opened from any smartphone, and the results can be exported into XML.

3.4 Current Controlled Trials (www.controlled-trials.com)

The Current Controlled Trials website aims to increase the availability and promote the exchange of information about on-going clinical trials worldwide, and offers to services, the ISRCTN Register and the metaRegister of Controlled Trials (mRCT):

The *ISRCTN Register* is owned by ISRCTN (<http://isrctn.org>, a not-for-profit organisation). It contains a basic set of data items on clinical trials that have been assigned an ISRCTN.

It contains:

- Applicant details
- Trial details
 - Protocol/serial number, ClinicalTrials.gov identifier and EudraCT number (if available)
 - Public and scientific title and acronym (if available)
 - Lay summary, study hypothesis, study design and target number of participants
 - Disease, condition or study domain
 - Participants inclusion and exclusion criteria
 - Interventions
 - Primary and secondary outcome measure(s)
 - Countries of recruitment and anticipated start date and end date
 - Trial website (if available) and sources of funding
- Sponsor details
- Contact details

The *metaRegister of Controlled Trials (mRCT)* is a register hosting service for organisations wishing to list information on their on-going and completed trials in a publicly accessible register. It is a platform that:

- pools together several international trial sources, for example the ISRCTN Register and ClinicalTrials.gov
- shows subsets (or views) from the ISRCTN Register. This is the case for trials funded or adopted by research funders or sponsors such as the UK Medical Research Council, the NIHR HTA programme and the Wellcome Trust. Having a specific register within the mRCT is a way to showcase the research these

organisations fund or sponsor without relying on on-the-fly searches that could potentially return trials that these organisations have not officially acknowledged.